

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2008

Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
15B-31
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Eschenbach:


In light of the recent salmonellosis outbreak caused by certain types of raw tomatoes, we are writing to urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work closely with states to quickly determine the outbreak's source and effectively eliminate the contaminated tomatoes from our food supply without hurting the producers whose products are still safe.


Since mid-April nearly 400 people have been infected with the rare salmonella strain, Saintpaul, and the number is likely to grow until the source of the outbreak is successfully located. The safety and integrity of the American food supply is of the utmost importance to us all, and we strongly encourage the FDA to continue its efforts to prevent more salmonella cases from occurring.

Additionally, we feel that it is equally critical that the FDA continue to communicate clearly with the public about where safe tomatoes are produced. We are starting to see the negative effects of this scare among tomato producers in our home state of Tennessee, even though it is listed as one of the states not associated with the outbreak. We urge the FDA to clearly communicate to the public where safe tomatoes are being grown so that these producers are not needlessly harmed any further. Tomato producers whose products are safe for consumption should not be punished unintentionally and unnecessarily.

Thanks to your efforts American consumers have the safest food supply in the world. We appreciate your dedication to food safety and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress


Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



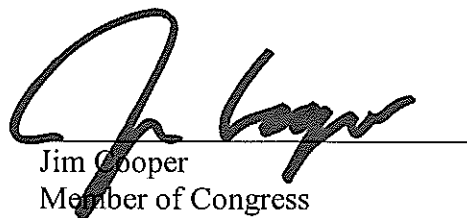
Bob Corker
United States Senator



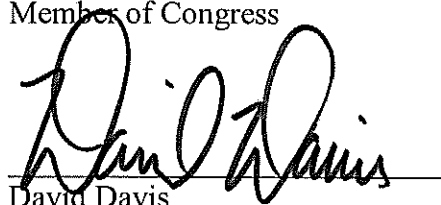
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



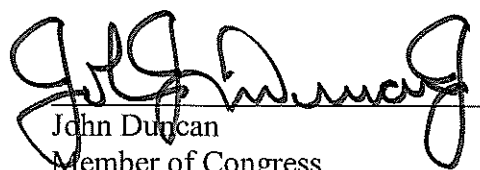
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



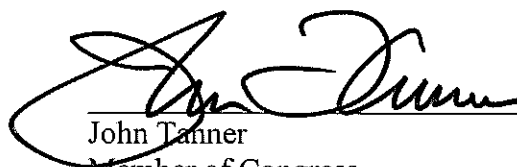
David Davis
Member of Congress



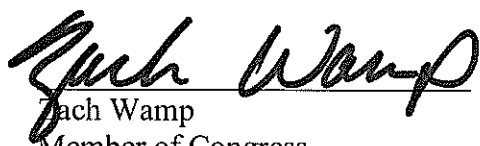
John Duncan
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



John Tanner
Member of Congress



Zach Wamp
Member of Congress